

**STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
BOARD MEETING SESSION – DIVISION OF WATER RIGHTS
NOVEMBER 19, 2019**

ITEM 4

SUBJECT

STREAMLINED PERMITTING PROCESS FOR DIVERSIONS OF FLOODWATER AND OTHER HIGH FLOWS THAT SUPPORT GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY

DISCUSSION

The Division of Water Rights (Division) has developed a streamlined permitting process for diversions of water from high flow events to underground storage. The streamlined process will directly assist Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) and other local agencies working to address the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) and adverse impacts caused by extractions.

Staff will present on new and current permitting pathways for capturing flood or other high-flow events for underground storage, with focus on a recently developed streamlined permitting process. The streamlined permitting process consists of an administrative adjustment in priorities and process. No statutory or regulatory changes were necessary to implement the streamlined permitting process, except for lowering of the associated fee schedule. Streamlining is primarily achieved through identifying eligibility criteria and a simplified water availability analysis (WAA) targeting diversion of high flow events during winter. These criteria and analyses will ensure applications are unlikely to injure other legal users, adversely affect fishery resources, or other public trust resources.

Staff from Santa Cruz County will also present on a pilot project using advanced geophysics to identify and prioritize groundwater recharge sites.

POLICY ISSUE

This is an informational item

FISCAL IMPACT

None

REGIONAL BOARD IMPACT

None

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

None. This is an informational item